TRANSCRIPT—ANNIE AGER

Fairview Community History Project

Interviewee: Annie Ager

Interviewer: Tealey Ellis and Judith Robertson

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Location: 50 Clarke Lane, Fairview, NC 28730 (Sherrill's Inn)

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Transcriber: Deborah Taylor

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TE: My name is Tealey Ellis and I'm a volunteer with the Fairview Public Library in association with Pack Library in Asheville, NC and I'm going to be speaking with and interviewing Annie Ager today on May 24th, 2018 in her home, Sherrill's Inn, to talk about Annie Ager's experiences living in Fairview.

JR: This is Judith Robertson recording the oral history of Annie Ager at Sherrill's Inn on May 24th at 11 o'clock am for the Fairview Oral History project for the NC room at Pack Library in the Buncombe County Library system. The conditions of use form for sound and video recordings has been signed by the interviewee.

TE: The first set of questions, Miss Ager, is basically what's being called 'just the facts' of asking where you were born and what were your parents' names, where they were born.

AA: So my, I was born here in this house. My parents were in this house when I was born. I was born in the city, in Asheville. My rest of my family past me were all born down in Bat Cave. My parents, Elspeth McClure Clarke and Jamie McClure Clarke.

TE: And where were they born?

AA: My father James McClure Clarke, was born in Manchester, Vermont and my mother was born here in Asheville. And she lived in this house, she grew up in this house, Elspeth Clarke; Elspeth McClure was her name.

TE: What about your grandparents, their names and where they were born?

AA: My mother's grandfather, Jim McClure was born in, outside Chicago in Lake Forest, Illinois. And his father was the minister of the Lake Forest Country Inn church. Later, he was, Head of McCormick seminary in Chicago. His wife was Elizabeth Kramer, was born in Chicago also.

TE: What about your parents – what kind of work did they do?

AA: My father originally worked for the Commerce Federation which was based in Asheville. And then he became an editor for the Asheville Citizen Times, he was the Sunday editor, and he worked for the Citizen-Times. He also later on worked as the Vice President of Warren Wilson College.

TE: Okay. Were there any other locations here in Fairview that you lived?

AA: No. I was born and raised here.

TE: So you were born here and you always lived here. In number of years, how many years have you lived here, if you don't mind?

AA: 67 years [laughter].

TE: Sorry about that.

AA: Almost 68.

TE: What can you share with us about the year this house, your house, was built and is there an architect that you know of?

AA: That we don't know of an architect. The house, this house was built mostly around another house. It was an old log cabin, it was built about 1800 and that was built by a guy named John Ashworth and his wife. And that is the old kitchen and the study where we were. That was about two log cabins. Then Mr. Sherrill, he bought this property and built the house around those cabins in 1834. The Ashworth family had moved here, in, about 1800 or earlier. They built an old log cabin in the back. We think he fought at the battle of King's Mountain. We think that the family that we talked to, he fought at the battle of King's Mountain. He named this mountain Ferguson. So, we think he fought on the British side and then came here to sort of leave or get away.

TE: Are there currently any outbuildings?

AA: There is still the log cabin that the Ashworths built in 1789, is still around that time – it's out the back. And then the spring house that Mrs. Ashworth built is out in the back too.

TE: Do you have by any chance the original plans for the house?

AA: We do not, we have some, we don't have the original plans for the house. We do have, we have a, what we have in the 1960's, two boys, Jack, the Tribble's son and also the guy who became the, I'm forgetting his name but he lived in Weaverville. He was the architect for the Buncombe County schools for years, Marshall Roberts. He and the, Hal Tribble's son did a study of the house and we have his drawings.

TE: Okay.

AA: They weren't quite sure why it was still standing [laughter].

TE: What about renovations? I think you mentioned some a while ago about the original cabin and then built around that. What other renovations?

AA: Now, my grandparents in the 19, between 1916 and 1920, they added the part that sticks out, they added one part, to put a bedroom and another bathroom.

TE: Photographs of the neighborhood, do you have any photographs of the neighborhood?

AA: We have a lot of photographs of the mountain and of this area before. Yes, we do have photographs.

TE: Did your family hire people to work in the house or in the yard?

AA: They did! Yeah, they had, we had a wonderful guy, John Shorter, who was working for the family here, when they moved in here. He was a black guy, John Shorter, and he had married a woman named Matilda who came up from New Orleans with a family from New Orleans. They came up to Arden and they were living over there. They would come up for the summer a lot of the times. I think people from New Orleans they'd go to Cashiers too but they'd come to Asheville to get away in the summer and Matilda was going to church. He picked her up one day. Then they got married and they lived here and they took care of me when I was little. We have a picture of John Shorter and we have a picture of his nephew.

TE: Super! And when you say they came up here, how do you know how they commuted? What kind, excuse me.

AA: I think in those days, that was the 1920s. I suspect they probably had a car then, don't you suspect – my grandparents, they drove the first car out from Asheville after the flood of 1916. They came out here after they rebuilt the roads, so, that was a big occasion.

TE: I would think so. What pets or other animals, maybe such as chicken or livestock did you have? And was there a garden, when you younger and growing up?

AA: When I was growing up we always had a garden, if you didn't have a garden you weren't worth much, right.

JR: You had to be self-sufficient.

AA: You had to have a garden. Even then my parents, my mother, I was thinking today, we always had to weed the asparagus patch, that was a terrible job - but we would. You know asparagus was not a regular crop for this area. It was not something people.... and then we always had raspberries, we always had beans and potatoes, all the things you're supposed to have. And sweet corn.

TE: Is there anything else you'd like to say about your house, this house, like favorite memories, favorite spot in the house?

AA: We, oh well it was great house to grow up in as you could imagine. I grew up, I was one of eight, we had, I had an older sister, Susie and I had six younger brothers, so I had a big family. And we, my mother, she liked us to work. We did have to work. In the mornings, we worked in the garden and then after 12, we were supposed to be able to play. But that didn't always quite work. But, I was the third oldest. So, when I always remember that part in the bible where you, if you say you'll do it and you don't, that's worse than saying that you won't do it. I was pretty good at saying I'll be there in a minute.

[Laughter]

AA: But, I didn't always get there. But my mother did a great job, she kept us all. We went to school in town. We went to church at the Foundational Church in Asheville, then later on the Presbyterian Church at Warren Wilson. Then my brothers started going to Fairview School later on.

TE: You mentioned some of the crops that were grown here. What about livestock, did you raise livestock?

AA: We had a dairy, we had a dairy. That was, so, we had, it was about 800 acres. This was a big farm. We had a dairy that was down there where the farm store is and we always had people that ran it, they lived around. We had different milkers that we knew: Carl Hagens and his wife Florence. Then we had, oh, Glenn Woody. Anyway, we had different milkers that were part of the family. They would, well we would see them you know, they were part of. Leonard Suttles and his wife Ruth that lived right there at the barn and they were part of the family since he was 12 years old. And he died when he was like 85. They were always here. And we had Dottie and Claude Hall that worked here. And Dottie cooked in the kitchen. So growing up we had people that, you know, worked in the kitchen. And Matilda took care of us when we were young.

TE: How do you remember the farming methods changing over the years, you know from your early years to now?

AA: Well, of course it's been pretty dramatic. Sort of in a way, I always think, well of course we had tractors and we had the apple orchard, so we would spray the apples and that was, you know we would spray them with different sprayers. I remember my mother was trying to buy a better apple sprayer and she met Wilma Dykeman, 'cause the Dykemans were selling their apple sprayer. So, she met Wilma and they were great friendship after that, they were great friends. Our old apple sprayer is still up there in the orchard, where it died. And then of course tractors and more, and then we sort of didn't, we'd been doing eggs since about the 1930's in the chicken house and we would collect them by hand and wash them in the old kitchen. We never quite got

to the production method - we never went to the 500, you know, 500,000 chickens or whatever. We stayed at this same level.

JR: Did your mom take produce and such to sell?

AA: They would take everything to Washington.

TE: Where did your family purchase supplies such as feed, hay, tools?

AA: Well, we had the Farmer's Federation. We had my family's business, which was the Farmer's Federation, which lasted 'til 1957. Growing up, that was what my grandfather decided that the farmers here didn't really have a good, you couldn't buy inexpensive feed. There was only, you know if you wanted two bags of feed, small farmers needed. So, they made, they formed this cooperative, this cooperative. They had little warehouses all over western North Carolina – Murphy, Clay County, every county, Haywood County, and Swain County. We would go out there and every summer he would have a picnic. Now this was through the 40's and the 50's, when I was growing up, we'd always go to the picnics and they had people that played the, played instruments and they entertained and then they'd have –there's some of the letters that was in my grandmother's book, talking about how. Then they'd have people come out with big placards. I remembered watching it, I was just a little girl, but I loved it – that was the boring part. They'd come out there and one person talking about fertilizer and another person talking about, you know, well, insurance. Then they'd have little skits and then they would have a guy come running in with a, he stole a chicken and he'd throw the chicken into the audience and somebody would catch it. They'd arrest him and then they would talk about kinds of chickens. So, it was a way that, the idea was that you could bring farmers into the modern age, as

far as how to. Then by the 19, late 50's, we had Enka, we had Owen, we had different plants and that changed – everybody started working in the factories. Because it was a better job and a better living.

TE: Very interesting. You mentioned a few minutes ago, naming by names some of the people who actually helped and worked here on the farm. At any time did you ever have migrant workers?

AA: We did not ever use migrant workers. Oh we did have Claude and Dottie, when they left here, Claude went to work over in the greenhouse, Myer's Greenhouse over on the mountain there. They started raising flowers to sell, carnations that was a big business here in Fairview. And Dottie worked for C. P. Clare, which was a little factory down in Fairview. So, everybody was getting jobs more.

TE: Okay. What were your fondest memories of the farm, not the house now, but the farm? And what would you say, some of the obstacles or hardships were of the farm?

AA: Well, probably that we had to work all the time. No, we liked the farm, but we did, we had, you know, go down there. And people were doing the milking and all. Later, growing up, we had the horses and I did feed the horses and take care of them. We always had about two pigs. We had the chickens and as children, as we got older, of course, by the time we were teenagers there weren't as many people to help do all those things. We had a wonderful guy named Reverend David Huntley that lived down there. And his, he got too old, older and he couldn't do it anymore. So, we would gradually take over those jobs.

TE: Okay.

AA: But, we didn't, we loved it. We always loved it.

TE: This next section is about the neighbors and the neighborhood and hopefully, I will not be asking some questions that you've already answered, but what do you think were some of the best aspects of living in Fairview?

AA: Oh, I think it was, it was great to have so much freedom to go where you want to. You could climb the mountain, you could go horseback riding where ever you wanted to. And we had wonderful neighbors, and my mother and father were great about getting to know people. We didn't have any really close neighbors. Although we always rented out this house, so we had various families that lived down there. Marshall Abell who was principal of Asheville Country Day School rented it for a number of years. His children lived here and then another family, the Brysons, so we always had a family right there, so those kids we all got to know. Then that little house down on the road, the roadhouse, we had the Butlers lived there and then later on different families lived in that house, different milkers, so we were friends with those children. You had to have a car to go to town. You couldn't ride a bicycle out here very well, it was too steep.

TE: How do you think the neighborhood has changed over the years and what brought about the changes?

AA: I think that Fairview gradually, by the time I came back here, people were beginning to move out here. People were, the Fairview School was growing. I think that Asheville was just getting big and we needed to have. The land here was not expensive for a long time. It's gotten

much more right now. Now, it's more of a desirable place to live. When we were growing up, as my brother Billy said, he went to Fairview School. When he went to Reynolds that, we were the hicks, you know, we were the total stick people at Reynolds. And Haw Creek and Bell. There is still a little bit of a feeling about that, even to this day, when you played baseball and stuff. But, they were better than we were out here. Now I would say, by the, we, my husband and I came back here and he was working at a little New Found School in Asheville, but we sent our kids to Fairview School and it was very great, very successful. They went all the way through Fairview and all the way through Reynolds. We were always very happy with the schools out here.

TE: Wonderful. Do you think that there are any threats to your neighborhood, things that either could endanger the historical qualities of it or take away from its characters, environmental things?

AA: I think that's always going to be a problem, but I don't think, I mean I think we just need to … I think it's important for us as a community. I think Fairview gotten better at being a community. We don't really have a downtown. And that was a frustration for us growing up. We had the school. That was your main place. So now, and then I think that, we now have the library and that has been a great thing. Ed Sheary, when they put the library out here. I was actually on the library board when they decided to put it out here. And they said, he told me then, he said, "Annie, if you'll find somebody to do the landscaping, we'll build the library." Because we can, but I need somebody to do the landscaping. So, then I just I said well that was the best thing I ever did, well one of the best things I did was to get Jim Webb who was a retired forest man who lived out here on Hickory Nut Estates. I just asked him if he would do the plan for the landscaping of the library. And I didn't really know what it would be and he was amazing. He

did an amazing job. We have by far the best landscaped library anywhere. And he also had us take care of it. We had a wonderful lesson, Jane Mitchell. Just using volunteers in the neighborhood. And then we also had the Fairview Community Center, which was the old, that was the old gym at Fairview School. That big old building. Cindy Dotson and I; we played a lot of basketball games in there, you know, we'd all play. And it was built for a high school gym. So, we decided that we shouldn't let it, they were going to tear it all down and build a new school. Of course, you know, you want to build a new school. But, we just thought, this building is a separate building and it needed, and we thought we should keep that building.

TE: Good forethought.

AA: Just because it could be used. So, they were very sympathetic, really the Board of Education- Marshall Roberts again helped us to organize it and we kept that building.

TE: How strong was the sense of community in your neighborhood when you know, in growing up, you know, would you say extremely strong or not very or.

AA: I would say strong, not terribly strong just because Fairview was such a rural community. That you didn't see each other all the time. When I was growing up, we didn't go to Fairview School. We went to Asheville schools, so that didn't allow us to see as many people out here. Now, my own children are much more connected to Fairview, because they went to Fairview School. You know, when the policeman stops you, you know them, you know. [Laughter]

TE: How would describe then the sense of community today?

AA: I'd say we have a pretty good sense of it … I also think we have the newspaper now which helps a lot.

TE: Yes, it does.

AA: That's been a big addition to the community. And the library. And the churches have always been very good communities here. And we did visit the churches. That's another thing growing up. My grandfather was a minister, so we would go to Fairview, we would go to Pleasant… he would preach at different churches. We would always, we went to Pleasant Grove, we went to Fairview Baptist, we went to all the different churches growing up 'cause we, and so we knew people in those churches. We went over to Nesbitt's Chapel, there are a lot of good churches.

TE: What did most people do for a living, in early Fairview days?

AA: Probably farming and working at Sayles Bleachery, the Bleachery over on … that was a big place for people to work. The Sextons all worked there. There was a couple of other factories like that one – Three Mountaineers, things that are gone now. Even the Bleachery is gone,

TE: Could you elaborate a little bit on the Bleachery, that you mentioned?

AA: The Bleachery was a big; it's right where Walmart is now. That was a big company here. It was the Sayles Bleachery. They made cloth and I don't know what they actually did there. It was a big building.

JR: They bleached the cloth there. There were other factories in the area that created the fabric. They wove it.

AA: And they bleached it.

JR: And they did the bleaching.

AA: There were a lot of people out here that worked there, at the Bleachery.

TE: When you were growing up here, were there people from many different ethnic or racial backgrounds?

AA: There is a black community here, in Fairview. We have quite a lot of, a couple of black communities over on Concord Road. We knew those people. I would say, not other, not many other ethnic people.

TE: What about legends or stories about Fairview that might be interesting?

AA: There's probably a lot, I would say. [Laughter] Bruce Whitaker's probably reported all those. But they have different legends that a guy lived in the stump of a tree. Now, why would he have to do that? Anyway, maybe I shouldn't repeat that. [Laughter] And we loved, we grew up here. We, Fairview was, Mr. Fletcher McBrayer, he bought where the Ramseys are now, the Fletcher McBrayer, Betty Cameron's place. And he, the story was that he had an auction in 17, 1870 sometime. And he came and he bought all the land. He had all the money in a paper poke. [Laughter] I think that story is true.

TE: Following, kind of that same line then, what would be some of the most memorable people or characters in your neighborhood that made them really stand out to you?

AA: When I was growing up, the people we really, we, there were people that helped us, of course the McAbees up here and Clarence helped me up until just last year he retired. They had, they lived in a log cabin up on McAbee Cove. That log cabin is still there and Grace, Beverly, they lived there. And then Betty Cameron who lives down here. She was my great friend. We used to go riding together. She worked for Terminix and she grew up, she never married. And she ran that Terminix place. She was very well-known manager, had the best Terminix in the southeast. I mean she was my friend. She was a great example of what a woman could do and you don't have to get married. She was powerful.

TE: A little feminism in there.

AA: She was real strong.

TE: Yes, wonderful. What about get-togethers and celebrations, when you were younger and growing up? What uh…

AA: As far as, we, the Federation picnics were, and that was up through 1957. Fairview, they would have one for Fairview and we would all go to the recreation, the rec park. We didn't really have, the biggest sort of celebrations you ever had here were decorations and also homecomings, at churches. They had one in Gerton, you'd have a homecoming for the churches. And everybody that ever went to that church comes back and they have a meal on the lawn.

TE: So would that have been a way of gathering information?

AA: That was a way of talking to people.

TE: Okay, okay, wonderful.

AA: We did some down with the Bat Cave area, up on Middle Fork. We had a lady that lived here and grew up on Middle Fork and we'd always go to her Decoration. I'd take her there and some May, the first Sunday in May was the Decoration of Middle Fork. We'd go up there and have dinner and decorate the graves.

TE: This next section is about churches in the community. Did you and your family attend any church services and/or just generally information about churches you could share?

AA: We did go to a lot of church services. We always went to church and that was good. And if we didn't go to church, we had church here at home. We went to the Congregational Church in Asheville, but my grandfather preached at a lot of different churches around here: Pleasant Grove, Gerton, and down in Bat Cave. And we had Mr. Huntley was the minister for the Lake Lure Baptist Church. And so we were good, we went to church everywhere we went. Wherever we were, we went church. And I enjoyed that. You got to know a lot of people.

TE: Were there many people of faiths other than Christianity that you know of?

AA: No.

TE: Okay.

AA: They had a black church here in Fairview for a long time. It was over there and that's a community that is, that church was the land, the Shorters had a place over at the end of Fox Road and Lloyd Young lived there. I've been there a couple of times since then. They had a problem

with somebody, they had a church that was taken away. They felt like it was sort of stolen by somebody and I don't remember all those stories. That was way back. But there is a black, and then they have a black community over on Concord Road. I'm going there today. There's a church, there's a minister, they have at the top of the hill right there on Concord. Fannie Logan, they have a little black community there, the Adells and the Logans. And then there's another, the Robinsons over on Emmas Grove. There's a little black community there.

TE: Okay. Moving on to some businesses, what are some businesses that you remember in Fairview, from when you were younger?

AA: The main one we went to was Happy Merrell's, Merrell's store, which is now, the one that says GAS. I don't know, it's the first store on the right, right next to the Fire Department. That was Merrell's store.

TE: Dale's now.

AA: Lyle Merrell ran it and his brother was Happy Merrell. They were very nice to us all those years. Guy Merrell kind of ran the Democratic Party, he'd round you up to go vote.

TE: Very interesting.

AA: Then, uh, the Merrells are still there. Johnny, John Merrell still lives over there. Their mother worked at Sears.

TE: Okay.

AA: Guy Merrell's wife worked at Sears.

TE: What about early restaurants in the area?

AA: The first restaurant I remember was the Fairview Restaurant which is still there, but it was a different building. We really, we didn't have any restaurants out here. The first one was the Fairview Restaurant, that was a big deal.

TE: The first one was.

AA: The Fairview Restaurant. It's right where the Fairview Restaurant is now, but it was just smaller. I'm trying to think who ran that restaurant. Anyway, it was, Angelo's, of course is the one there now, but it's the same place is where that was. And there was an Inn in Fairview and that was right down there where Merrell's store was too. And the Inn was on the hill, the Fairview Inn. My grandparents stayed there when they first came here.

TE: Okay

AA: And that was run, by I think a family called Kennickell but I don't know. Don't quote me on that. It's been gone for a long time.

TE: Were there any funeral parlors or undertakers in this area?

AA: No.

TE: You had to go to Asheville.

AA: Not official. [Laughter]

TE: Parks and playgrounds?

AA: There was no.

TE: Nothing like that. Okay.

AA: That was a, I think was a… we now have the one by the school, the park by the school, which is really nice. And then the Bopp's have that, have that, they've let that park here, people use that down there off of Miller Road. I don't know if it's officially called a park, but you can use that field there.

TE: Before automobiles, what route or route did people take to get to Asheville?

AA: Oh, that's a good… I think there was always a road which was where the stage coach came out which was much more rough road, they'd walk, they would go to Asheville. There were people out here. There was a guy named Butler Fox and he would walk, he could walk here to Asheville, to Oakley faster than a car. How he went I don't know. And then there was another guy named Trottin' Sally. And Trottin' Sally was, he came from down in Greenville, he was, people would tell us about them. Trottin' Sally could beat the train from Rutherfordton to Asheville, I can't remember. [Laughter] He ran!

TE: What about crimes, were there many crimes reported?

AA: You know, if you did get robbed, it was probably somebody you knew. [Laughter] Not really, but there was, I mean a slight element, but nothing terrible.

TE: Were there any traumatic events in the Fairview area, such as accidents, fires, floods?

AA: The one you always heard about was the flood of 1916. I don't think there really was anything else that I remember. They did set up a fire department after that. I remember when they started the fire department, all the people got together and that would be an interesting history. There's a lot of great people that did that.

TE: I would think so. I would think so. What about doctors or medical facilities available in Fairview?

AA: There was Dr. Lynch down here in Fairview where my sister, Susie, and Will Hamilton live. That was Dr. Lynch – he was the doctor, Doc Lynch, he was the doctor for this area.

TE: This last section is historical and I think you've already shared a lot of historical things, but any particular stories from an older generation that might concern mode of transportation or what they thought it was like to live in their Fairview?

AA: I, I think, historical, well, there weren't many cars. People did walk a lot. People probably went more to Black Mountain, like if you lived over on Wrights Cove Road. Those people went to Black Mountain 'cause you could walk there faster than you could go to Asheville. And Craig Town and all, up there at the top of Old Fort Road. That, people would go to Black Mountain or to Swannanoa instead of Asheville or Fairview, just because everybody walked. When cars came they built this road that did change it all, how people moved around. So.

TE: As far as major historical events, do you have any memory of either being told or then later, maybe of your own memory of World War II, the Great Depression. The Civil Rights Movement?

AA: I think we were, probably, by the time, my father fought, my father was in the Pacific in World War II, so we heard a lot of stories about the Guadalcanal, Sullivan's Island. And then we were interested in, I think that probably the next thing that was the Civil Rights Movement. There was a group in Asheville that my father was on, it was kind of; I can't think they called that – I think they're setting up a new one, it's sort of a civil rights group that both groups in Asheville and then. I guess I sort of grew up in the, 1968, I noticed that they were very excited. That was the year I graduated from high school and that was the year Martin Luther King was killed and that was the year Bobby Kennedy was killed and so we were all kind of in that, we grew up civil rights were a part of our life.

TE: What kind of responses when those two events happened?

AA: Where I was, of course people were more sympathetic to their cause – to the black cause. I don't know whether, in Fairview I would say I think it's like anything, like the gay movement, people lived - you knew them. If they lived in your community, you were all okay. It was the larger problem. We didn't have a serious number. Our numbers were small. But the Carters over there, they knew the people down on Logan Lane and all that. They've all been friends. And there was a big black community in Rutherford County and they would come up here to Asheville to sell their produce. They would stop right down there in that curve to get water and camp out.

TE: Oh, interesting.

AA: That was always, we sort of had, we were in communication with those… And that was my, the Federation also. We had this foundation that came out of the Federation and part of that was The Lord's Acre, which they started. It came out of Georgia and the idea was that the rural church didn't have money and so the idea was you would have, every rural church would have it. You could dedicate an acre of land for the lord and [on] from that acre you would give to the church and they would have a sale. The Mills River Church did it. Other churches did it to raise money to pay a minister. That's why it was started, The Lord's Acre idea.

TE: That is wonderful.

AA: And there were black churches in Lake Lure that were part of that too. So, that was a big movement in the '30s, '40s, '50s, really about up to 1950 or '55.

TE: Well, this concludes all the suggested questions, but I would like to ask if there's anything else, that a topic or an area that were not covered in these questions that you'd like to share, whether it's a childhood memory or present day?

AA: I think Fairview's getting, I'm really happy about the way Fairview has become more of a community and I would say that's… we didn't even have a grocery store. We just had, well we had David Tickle's store too. And that was before that Bowmans, Mr. and Mrs. Bowman. There were small stores, but general stores. The Bowmans had more of a general store and that's really where the locals had to shop. They really didn't have another. We didn't have any big grocery stores, growing up. We would go to town, so that was, and really, in a way that was your

community with smaller stores. You'd see people you knew. And the churches. I think the churches and the small stores. And the fire department had an auxiliary, the auxiliary was a pretty important part for a long time.

TE: Sure.

AA: So, that was another way for communication. And, the library has been a great thing. I think that's added a lot. Even if not everybody is a member of the Friends of the Library, which I think is a great group, but I think that you need to have, it's good to have a place you can go and meet people and have the meeting room at the Fairview School, that's a good thing.

TE: And learn from books.

AA: And learn from books. You can always learn from books.

TE: You can always learn from books. Mrs. Ager thank you so much for agreeing to this interview and inviting us into your home and giving us a tour. It's been a total 100 percent pleasure for me today.

AA: Thank you all for coming. Thank youall for doing this project, I'm excited about it.

TE: You're very welcome.

AA: That's great.

END OF INTERVIEW.